

## Reading Strategy: Jigsaw

### What is it?

Jigsaw is a cooperative learning strategy that enables each student of a “home” group to specialize in one aspect of a topic. Students meet with member from other groups who are assigned the same aspect, and after mastering the material, return to the “home” group and teach the material to their group member. Each team could also read the material together and then teach the other teams within the class. Each team/team member serves as a piece of the puzzle to complete the topic being covered within the classroom/lesson. When the class works together as a whole, the complete jigsaw puzzle is created. \*\*Taken from:

<http://readingrockets.org/strategies/jigsaw>

### When and why use this strategy?

This strategy helps build comprehension and deepen understanding. It encourages cooperative learning among the students within the classroom, and helps to improve listening, communication, and problem-solving skills. This strategy can be used before reading (individually), during reading (with small groups), and after reading (with the whole class).

### Activity: (6<sup>th</sup> grade)

1. Introduce strategy and allow students to talk about prior knowledge to the topic: “Electronic Skin”.
2. Hand out each student a copy of their portion of the article “Electronic Skin” by Stephen Ornes. (The whole class will read one article. The article has been divided up equally so each home group has a portion of the article---group 1 will teach the class the first portion, group 2 will teach the second portion and so on). **\*\*Students can be given their article before being divided up into groups so they read individually then come together as a group as well.\*\***
3. Allow time for each student to read the article and then discuss with their group what they feel is important to teach to the class. (At this time walk around and ask questions etc. to make sure every student is participating).
4. Once all groups have discussed their article and mastered their important concepts, they will then teach the class what they have learned. Every student should participate in teaching the rest of the class.

5. While groups are presenting, other groups should listen to what they learned. At the end of the presentation, if a group/student has questions, they will then be allowed to ask them before the next group presents their portion.
6. Once all groups have read, discussed, taught the class and answered all questions the jigsaw is complete. A class discussion could now be implemented if you choose to do so.